

Bloomfield Citizen.

WEEKLY JOURNAL

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WILLIAM A. RITSCHER, JR.
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THE CITIZEN solicits contributions from the general public on any subject—political, religious, educational, or social, as long as they do not contain any personal attack.

All communications must be accompanied by the writer's name, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith.

Advertisements for insertion in the current week must be in hand not later than Friday noon.

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1906.

THE WATER BOND ISSUE.

The proposition to issue bonds to the amount of about \$20,000 for the purpose of extending water mains has aroused much discussion, and the majority public sentiment seems to be strongly adverse to the scheme. The opposition is not against the extension of water mains where there is an evident need for them, but the general impression is that the scheme now before the Town Council anticipates by several years the necessity of water mains in some of the streets proposed.

It is also urged that before any action is taken towards extending the water supply system an accurate and complete financial statement as to operating expenses and profits of the water department be forthcoming. Parties who have closely studied the elaborate plan of extension recommended by the water committee have reached a different conclusion as to the necessities of the town for more water mains either for domestic purposes or for fire protection.

The water committee's plan calls for 8,000 feet of pipe on upper Broad street, together with an additional measuring meter on upper Broad street, and other supplies costing several hundred dollars.

There is said to be no present urgent necessity for the upper Broad street main. There would be but a trifling amount of revenue from it, and it is suggested that it be cut out of this year's recommendation entirely.

It is generally admitted that but little revenue, if any, would be derived from the extension of water mains in the Silver Lake section, yet the water committee's plan calls for water mains in Thomas, Edison and Alva streets, and the argument is that it is there an imperative necessity for fire protection. The extension as proposed in the Silver Lake district calls for 3,300 feet of water mains.

Admitting the need of fire protection, an examination of the premises shows that a main on Bloomfield avenue from Grove street to the Belleville line will afford fire protection to the Silver Lake district, and 1,600 feet of main instead of 3,300 feet will meet the requirements. The taxable valuation of Silver Lake property does not warrant such a lavish expenditure as proposed by the water committee.

From the present terminus of the water main on Franklin avenue it was originally proposed to extend the water main along Franklin avenue to the Glen Ridge Cemetery entrance, a distance of 2,800 feet. The plan was afterwards modified to take in only about 800 feet. An investigation of the locality shows that the only present demand for water in that neighborhood is from the Polish Catholic Church and two or three dwelling houses, and 350 feet of main will meet the demand.

There is no demand for water in Carteret street, and not likely to be for a generation or more, and that street can be dismissed from present calculations.

In Willard place there is a development in evidence that warrants the extension of water mains in that street.

Belleview avenue and Edgewood road is another section where there is no present demand for water, and no evidence of near future demand. The main on Belleview avenue now ends at the stone house near the cemetery. The committee's recommendation is to extend the main to the Glen Ridge line, about 270 feet, with the cemetery on one side and swamp lots on the opposite side of the street, and it would seem that for the present that part of the committee's recommendation could be judicially eliminated.

The Myrtle avenue recommendation of several thousand feet of water mains is another instance of where the water committee is dipping far into the future. The committee proposes a main to Fitzherbert street far out on the local prairie. Sixteen hundred feet of main in Myrtle avenue north will meet the present needs of Myrtle avenue, and from appearances will answer for several years. There is at present but one applicant for water in Myrtle avenue.

In John street the water committee recommends 800 feet of main. Inquiry there shows that 400 feet will meet all needs in that street.

After making a careful comparison between the water committee's extravagant recommendation and the needs of

the town in the matter of water main extensions the conclusion is reached that the sum of not over \$5,000 expended in laying water pipes will be ample for all requirements for the current year, and if the water department is making the profit that the water committee asserts that it is, there is no need for issuing any bonds at all.

The water committee opposes the suggestion that its plan of water main extension be cut in three and a half periods on the ground that by making one job of the work would be favorable bids come in too late. The water committee evidently overlooks the fact that the Township Committee was justly offset by the large amount of unproductive capital buried in the ground in anticipation of development that will be years in maturing.

The policy that is to be pursued in extending water mains is a natural sequence of the purchase of the water plant. Much depends on a right solution of the problem at the start. In order to make a right start the members of the Council should definitely know all about the financial element in the question. The extension of the water mains depends upon bond issues. It is an evidence that the water department is not self supporting. If, however, as has been stated, the water department receives excess operating expenses, an application of a percentage of the surplus to the extension of mains ought to keep the department abreast at all times with all legitimate demands upon it.

Members of the Council should keep in mind that they are about to establish a precedent for the water department. If the price is once established that extension of the water plant is to be carried on with bond issues the prospect of an enormous public debt confronts this town. If on the other hand the cost of operating and extending the water plant can be confined within the receipts of the plant, municipal ownership will be voted a decided success. Advocates of municipal ownership must see to it that this, the first trial of their pet theory here in Bloomfield, does not become a wrecked flood of bonds. Money flows like water through a sluice gate of ponds, but the mill will never grind with the water that has passed.

Church Services.

The Rev. Edgar S. Wiers will preach in Unity Church (Methodist), tomorrow. At 10:45 a.m. his subject will be "The New Knowledge and the Old Faith." The annual church meeting and election of officers will be held on Wednesday evening, May 9th.

The installation services will be held Sunday evening, May 6th, at 7:30. Rev. James H. Eoot, D. D., of Philadelphia, will preach the sermon. Rev. Merle St. Croix Wright, D. D., of New York will give the charge to the minister and Rev. Walter Reid Hunt of Orange the right hand of fellowship. The two former ministers of Unity Church will participate. Rev. Arthur L. Grant, Elizabeth Willis, Sprague of New York, will give the address to the people. It is hoped that Rev. Robert Colyer of New York will be present and participate.

Special music will be rendered by the choir and organist of the church, assisted by Mrs. Goodell, Mrs. Julius F. Geertz, Mr. Elliott Marchall and Mr. Robert Gebman. Mrs. Goodell, the violin, piano and organ.

Maximum Tax Rate.

Hillary maximum tax rate bill repeaters have been introduced by Mr. Martin and Mr. Heck of Bergen in the House and by Mr. Colby in the Senate. After a number of hearings a settlement against the obnoxious bill became so strong that in the fear that a repealer would get through, the Heck bill was adopted to come up in the House and passed. Meanwhile Senator Hillary had introduced his new maximum tax rate bill, No. 108, providing that this year the tax rate shall be the same as last and that hereafter it shall be reduced gradually to a maximum of \$1.75. Last year the Heck repealer might get through the Senate, the new Hillary bill was amended to provide for the repeal of the old. Thus the Colby bill in the House were compelled to vote for a measure that did not altogether like and the new Hillary bill became a law.

The leading spirits in the young men's club are young men who enjoy the confidence of the citizens of the town in general, and thus far the political work of the organization has been marked by a commendable degree of conservatism.

The organization has been welcomed into the field of local politics and also the accompanying local campaign.

The predominating sentiment is that the young men's organization seems to be in sympathy with the movement led by State Senator Everett Colby and the young men appear to be determined to apply to local political affairs the principles of Everett Colby and his friends.

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